

XXXV.—*On the Ornithology of the Gambia River.*

By JOHN S. BUDGETT, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge.

IN visiting the Gambia Colony between November 1898 and July 1899, my chief object was the study of its fishes, so that this paper by no means professes to give a complete list of the birds, though it is hoped that a record of such as were noticed may be found useful to my readers. Apart from A.-T. de Rochebrune's unsatisfactory 'Faune de la Sénégambie' (1884) (which is generally supposed to be barely trustworthy), I have only been able to find two articles treating solely of the avifauna of the district, namely, "Notes on the Ornithology of the Gambia," by Dr. Percy Rendall (*Ibis*, 1892, pp. 215-230), which gives an annotated list of birds collected within eight miles of Bathurst during a stay of 21 months, and the second Appendix (pp. 464-483) to Moloney's 'Sketch of the Forestry of West Africa' (1887), which contains a list of the species known from the river, with references to the literature, by Capt. Shelley.

The majority of the birds that I observed are included in these lists, but a certain number are wanting; nor did I meet with all those noted by Dr. Rendall; this, however, is easily explained by the situation of the districts which I explored.

In travelling up the river to my future headquarters, the island of M'Carthy, we generally kept close to one bank or the other, and thus had fair opportunities of observing the avifauna. In the lower reaches from Bathurst to Nianimaru impenetrable walls of mangroves line the shores and make it very difficult to obtain a view of the interior or to watch the birds. Frequently, however, large parties of Pelicans and Marabou-birds crossed our course, while at low water there often appeared dense flocks of Crested Cranes, which, upon our approach, sailed away with their long necks and unwieldy heads far outstretched, uttering their loud hoarse cries.

As we neared Nianimaru, about 100 miles up the river, we left the mangroves behind and could see the actual



up plains or the stony plateaux away from the river, my hunting-grounds were somewhat restricted. When we arrived at M'Carthy Island on Nov. 10th the dry season was just beginning, but the swampy plains were still covered with dense jungle, and the foliage of the forest-covered plateaux formed a rich contrast to the red cliffs as they caught the last rays of the setting sun, while vast flocks of Egrets, Ducks, and Green Pigeons flew overhead from their feeding-grounds. Even before reaching M'Carthy Island I was struck by the number of species of Rollers and Kingfishers seen, though it was impossible to identify them from the colonial steamer. From Nov. 11 to Nov. 24 I was fully occupied with other work, and could shoot only a few birds daily for food. These were usually Pigeons, Spur-winged Plovers, the so-called Bush-fowl (*Francolinus bicalcaratus*), the Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles quadricinctus*), or occasionally a Whistling Duck. Other species of frequent occurrence were the Palm-bird (*Lophoceros nusutus*), usually seen in parties of from three to five, which continually flew in undulating fashion from tree to tree uttering their monotonous high-pitched cry of three descending notes; two species of Parrots; enormous flocks of *Lamprocolius purpureus*; as well as groups of *Lamprotornis caudatus* and Wood-Hoopoes (*Irrisor senegalensis*), ranging from ten to thirty, which vied one with another in their deafening chatter. The flocks of the last-named generally contained twice as many females as males, the latter being easily distinguished by their brilliant red beaks. The Foolish bird (*Centropus senegalensis*), various Drongos and Shrikes, and Weaver-birds in vast numbers, completed the tale. In the early days of my stay I noticed the call of our British Redstart, of which I saw both males and females throughout the dry season. The Grey Flycatcher (*Muscicapa grisola*) was also common along the river-banks at that time.

On Nov. 24 I went down the river to Nianimaru, and thence travelled in company with the Commissioner of the District up the north bank as far as the Kunchow Creek, returning to M'Carthy Island on Dec. 20th. There was

plenty of time for fishing and shooting, as we stayed at the important places for several days. The towns visited were Sukuta, Kailhai, Demfai, Tabanani, Same, and Koruntaba, most of them several miles from the river, as the natives almost always prefer to live in the higher country. On this trip I first became acquainted with the little flocks of the Long-tailed Shrike (*Corvinella corvina*), which were everywhere seen flying from bush to bush along the native roads, not in the least shy of our rather numerous string of porters and servants.

On reaching our destination we took up our quarters in native huts set aside for the Commissioner's special use, usually sharing them with the small Red-breasted Weaverbirds (*Lagonosicta senegala*), while in the trees overhead *Pycnonotus barbatus* reiterated its clear but plaintive little song. About the towns numbers of *Cryptorhina afra* acted as general scavengers. The males had brilliant red beaks, the females black. It was near Tabanani that I first saw perched on the top of some solitary tree-stump *Lanius auriculatus*, and also identified the Parrots previously noticed, viz. *Paeocephalus senegalus* in large flocks of over twenty, and *Palæornis docilis* in small parties. Here also I shot a number of the handsome green Pigeon (*Vinago waalia*), which never alights on the ground and feeds chiefly on young figs, the trees being literally crowded with the birds. In the gullies the noisy chatter of parties of some half-a-dozen Babblers (*Crateropus platycercus*) attracted my attention as they ran up the tree-trunks in search of insects, in Woodpecker fashion.

At Same, on the Kunchow Creek, while fishing with trammel-net and line, I had an opportunity of identifying the Kingfishers *Ceryle rudis*, *C. maxima*, and *Halcyon senegalensis*. The first-named afforded a most attractive spectacle as it poised itself in mid-air above its prey, with the neck and beak pointing downwards. Up and down the stream, skimming the surface as a Swallow does, flashed the gorgeous green, orange and crimson *Melittophaga bullocki*, while from the bushes along the banks came a noisy chatter that might

have been made by monkeys, but which I soon learnt was uttered by parties of *Crateropus reinwardti*. On the neighbouring mud a solitary bird, marked like a Redstart but of the size of a Thrush, stealthily hopped along. A specimen was with difficulty bagged, and proved to be *Cossypha albicapilla*.

Much of the country hereabouts was of a varied nature, ranging from level plateaux covered with cane-brakes and small leguminous trees, to cultivated valleys nearer the towns, where the natives grow millet, maize, cotton, and ground-nuts; here the soil was sandy, with only a solitary cotton-tree (*Bombax*), mahogany (*Kaia*), or fig-tree left standing. Nearer the river were level plains, flooded in the rainy season, where the natives plant a little rice.

As we came back through Koruntaba to the river-side, and thence to M'Carthy Island again, I noticed a new bird, the Piebald Crow (*Corvus scapulatus*), and shot a Heron (*Ardea melanocephala*), a large Eagle (*Aquila wahlbergi*), and a Harrier (*Circus macrurus*).

I went down to Bathurst for the new year, and there engaged two native fishermen, arriving at M'Carthy Island again on the 11th of January; thence, after a stay of eight days, I took my fishermen, cook, and nets down to Nianimaru for two weeks. A large number of the smaller birds were obtained at this time, including Shrikes, Woodpeckers, Bee-eaters, Honey-suckers, and Weaver-birds. All the Shrikes were found solitary or in pairs, except *Prionops plumatus*, which moved restlessly about the thickets of the stony plateaux in parties of a dozen. *Scoptelus aterrimus* was common here, though, unlike the large *Irrisor senegalensis*, it was always seen in pairs.

About this time the natives were burning the dead jungle on the lowlands, and I often watched with interest the enormous numbers of White Herons (*Ardea garzetta*) cautiously moving in front of the advancing flames and devouring the insects which were driven out of the grass by the heat of the fire. Above them twittered a vast number of *Merops nubicus*, literally showing a red cloud of wings as

they greedily devoured the insects that attempted to escape by flight. This was the only Bee-cater observed in large flocks. I obtained many of the small Weaver-birds and Flycatchers during my fishing expeditions, while the canoe slid silently amongst the luxuriant vegetation of the little creeks; though sometimes we had to beat a hasty retreat, as, with a roar, a great cow hippopotamus splashed into the water ahead, warning us that it was dangerous to approach her young.

On Feb. 1st I returned to M'Carthy Island, as there was some apprehension of an invasion by a neighbouring chief, Jimba ma Joula, but the arrival of H.M.S. 'Alecto' caused him to change his mind.

During February and March I made several trips up and down the river, but got very little in the way of birds. The Harmattan winds, which were now at their worst, parched up all the vegetation, blowing sand and dust over everything and making life generally uncomfortable; the temperature at midday was always over 100° F., and often 106° F., though at night it became much cooler. At this time I procured specimens of *Buphaga africana*, no easy matter with a bird that clings so closely to the backs of cattle.

In the early part of March I shot a Cormorant which had all the markings of the very young *Phalacrocorax lucidus* described by Capt. Boyd Alexander (see Brit. Mus. Cat. B. xxvi. p. 351). I also obtained a fine specimen of *Musophaga violacea*, with the head and wing-patch of a particularly bright red. On the 24th of March I went down the river to spend a week at Quinela, on the south bank. Near that town there was a well, much used by the natives, under the moist shade of some mahogany-trees, and amongst the numberless birds that frequented it I first obtained *Oriolus galbula*, the uncommon *Pogonorrhynchus vieilloti*, *Barbatula chrysocomis*, *Zosterops senegalensis*, and *Terpsiphone melanogaster*, remarkable in the males for a steel-blue crest and magnificent chestnut tail-streamers. One morning in the open plain I came across a large flock of *Glareola pratincola*, which had the peculiar habit of flying round for a minute or two and then settling quite close at hand, apparently trusting to its



resemblance to the soil to escape observation. In the tree-tops overshadowing the town Pelicans and Marabou-birds build their nests, and at the end of March there were still some unfledged birds in them.

On April 1st I started in a cutter up the river from M'Carthy Island to stay for a short time at the Kunchow Creek. The voyage occupied two days, and as we anchored when the tide was ebbing, I had several opportunities of going ashore to shoot. I found Guinea-hens (*Numida meleagris*) very plentiful, as were also the Bush-fowl and the Sand-Grouse. Arriving at the mouth of the creek on April 3rd, I rowed up it about a mile to Alimaka's wharf, where I had some huts built overlooking the river. At this time the air was everywhere heavily scented by the blossoms of a beautiful gardenia-like shrub, which teemed with various Sun-birds and Bee-eaters. The commonest Sun-bird met with here was *Nectarinia pulchella*, though I obtained three others. In the dense belt of forest by the river-side I saw several beautiful species of Flycatchers, and tried, without success, to obtain a specimen of *Elminia longicaudata*. *Parus leucomelas* was fairly common. About this time (April 10th) I first noticed the harsh cry of *Coccytes glandarius*, thenceforward very common. On leaving the Kunchow Creek, on a low mud-bank near its mouth I saw a large flock of *Ædicnemus senegalensis*, as a rule a solitary species.

On April 20th I joined company with two Englishmen who were on their way to inspect some gold-workings. We were taken up to Yarbutenda by a small steamboat, and thence we rowed up to Netebulu, in French territory, at the head of the navigable waters of the Gambia. After a stay of a few days, I parted from the Englishmen and made my way back overland towards M'Carthy Island. I stayed about a week at Koina, where antelopes and game of all kinds were very abundant, and there I succeeded in obtaining two good specimens of the beautiful blue Flycatcher, *Elminia longicaudata*. This bird is extremely active and restless, flitting from tree to tree and continually spreading out its tail like a fan. The male and female seem quite similar. *Bucorax abyssinicus* was also seen several times.

On May 4th I reached Fatotenda, where I stayed a day or two near a small lake much frequented by birds. I saw there black and white Ibises and several Spoonbills. Near Darsilami I noticed several flocks of about twenty Leona Nightjars (*Macrodipteryx longipennis*). The males with the elongated wing-feathers were rather more numerous than the females. They flew continually round and then settled on the ground at my feet. I reached my headquarters on May the 11th, and then heard for the first time the call of a Cuckoo, the note of which resembled that of *Cuculus canorus*, but the bird I shot was *C. gularis*.

I now went down to Nianimaru for the last time (May 18th). The rainy season was just beginning, though unusually early. I obtained there *Halcyon chelicutensis* far away from the river, and my first Black-throated Weaver-bird (*Hyphantornis cucullatus*), which I afterwards found everywhere in thousands, building so closely in the large baobab-trees (*Adansonia digitata*) that the grass-nests, with their entrances underneath, were not more than a foot or two apart. The Bee-eater, *Dicrocercus furcatus*, now seen for the first time, was abundant. *Platystira cyanea* was fairly common in the dense forest-growth at the water's edge; and *Pachyprora senegalensis* in the low bushes in the open. Honey-guides (*Indicator sparrmani*), perched on the tree-tops, were uttering a loud, melodious, but monotonous cry of two descending notes.

On June 1st I returned to M'Carthy Island, where I stayed during the rains until the end of July. The Secretary-bird was not unfrequently observed, and birds had generally begun to build. *Laniarius barbarus* makes a shallow nest of twigs, not unlike that of the Bullfinch, in rather obvious positions. There were now abundant in the swamps two brilliant Weaver-birds, *Euplectes franciscanus* and *E. oryx*; they both make round grass-nests with side entrances, attached to two or three of the stems of the tall swamp-grasses. *Vidua principalis* was fairly common, and I often watched the male hovering over the female, rapidly opening and shutting the long tail-feathers, causing them to assume



at times the shape of a lyre. In the swamps I came across the floating nursery of *Limnocorax niger*, made of flat blades of grass neatly woven together.

As I was unable to bring home a complete collection of the birds that I shot, I carefully measured and described those of which I did not preserve skins, and in the list given below such are marked with an asterisk. Birds which were merely seen I have not included; most of them, however, belonged to well-known species\*.

I have referred in my list to one or two kinds of Eagles identified from skins obtained on the south bank. These were shot by Mr. H. L. Pryce, the Travelling Commissioner of that district, who kindly allowed me to measure and take notes of them.

In identifying my descriptions I have received much assistance from Mr. A. H. Evans, while the skins were named for me at the British Museum by Capt. Shelley.

\**RUTICILLA PHENICURUS* (Lath.).

M'Carthy Island, February 19, 1899. Common in the early months of the dry season.

*SYLVIA CINEREA* Bechst.

Nianimaru, May 19, 1899. Common in the dry season.

*COSSYPHA ALBICAPILLA* (Swains.).

Nianimaru, February 28, 1899. Common, mostly in the thick bush.

*CRATEROPUS PLATYCERCUS* Swains.

Koruntaba, December 19, 1898. Common.

*CRATEROPUS REINWARDTI* Swains.

Kunchow Creek, December 17, 1898. Common near the river.

*PARUS LEUCOMELAS* Rüpp.

♂ ♀. Kunchow Creek, April 7, 1899. Common.

\* These included a Swallow, Wagtail, Hornbill, Snipe, Darter, several wading birds, and Ducks of various species. The last, though very frequently shot, were never identified.

HEDYDIPNA PLATURA (Hartl.).

♂. Nianimaru, February 22, 1899. Common.

NECTARINIA PULCHELLA (L.).

♂ ad. Quinela, March 26, 1899; ♂ jr., Kunchow Creek, April 7, 1899. Common.

CHALCOMITRA SENEGALENSIS (Hahn).

♂. Kunchow Creek, April 4, 1899. Rare.

ANTHOTHREPTES LONGUEMARI (Less.).

♂. Nianimaru, January 22, 1899; ♀. Nianimaru, April 6, 1899. Fairly common.

ZOSTEROPS SENEGALENSIS Hartl.

Quinela, March 2, 1899. Common at this place.

PYCNONOTUS BARBATUS Gray.

Nianimaru, November 25, 1898. Very common.

ANTHUS GOULDI Fraser.

Quinela, March 28, 1899.

SERINUS ICTERUS Bp.

M'Carthy Island, January 10, 1899. Common.

HYPOCHERA ÆNEA Hartl.

♂. Quinela, February 26, 1899. Common.

VIDUA PRINCIPALIS (L.).

♂. M'Carthy Island, July 4, 1899. Fairly common at this time.

QUELEA QUELEA (L.).

♀. Nianimaru, January 21, 1899. Common.

ESTRILDA CÆRULESCENS Vieill.

Nianimaru, February 21, 1899. Common.

\*ESTRILDA PHŒNICOTIS Swains.

M'Carthy Island, February 20, 1899. Very common.

\*LAGONOSTICTA SENEGALA (L.).

M'Carthy Island, February 20, 1899. Very common about the native huts.

SITAGRA LUTEOLA (Licht.).

♀ juv. Nianimaru, February 21, 1899. Common.

*HYPHANTORNIS CUCULLATUS* Hartl.

♂ ad. Nianimaru, May 18, 1899 ; ♂ juv. Nianimaru, March 25, 1899. Very common in the rainy season.

*LAMPROCOLIUS PURPUREUS* (P. L. S. Müll.).

M'Carthy Island, January 9, 1899. Very common.

\**LAMPROTORNIS CAUDATUS* (P. L. S. Müll.).

M'Carthy Island, December 17, 1898. Very common.

*BUPHAGA AFRICANA* L.

M'Carthy Island, March 12, 1899. Common.

*ORIOLOUS GALBULA* L.

♂ ♀. Quinela, March 27, 1899. Fairly common.

*DICRURUS ATRIPENNIS* Swains.

Nianimaru, May 21, 1899. Common.

*DICRURUS AFER* (Licht. sen.).

Demfai, March 17, 1899. Very common.

\**CRYPTORHINA AFRA* Sharpe.

M'Carthy Island. Very common. The males have red beaks, the females black ; they act as scavengers.

\**CORVUS SCAPULATUS* Daud.

Tabanani, December 16, 1899. Common.

*PRIONOPS PLUMATUS* (Shaw).

Nianimaru, January 21, 1899 ; Kunchow Creek, April 5, 1899. Fairly common in small parties.

*CORVINELLA CORVINA* (Shaw).

Quinela, March 26, 1899. Very common in small parties.

*LANIUS AURICULATUS* (Müll.).

Tabanani, December 15, 1898 (young) ; Quinela, March 25, 1899 (young). Fairly common in the open.

*LANIARIUS BARBARUS* (L.).

M'Carthy Island, January 9, 1899. Common in thick bush.

*DRYOSCOPIUS GAMBENSIS* (Licht.).

♂. Nianimaru, January 22, 1899. Common in thick bush.

TELEPHONUS SENEGALUS (L.).

Koina, May 1, 1899; Nianimaru, February 27, 1899.  
Common in the open.

MALACONOTUS POLIOCEPHALUS (Licht.).

Nianimaru, January 20, 1899. Common.

BRADYORNIS PALLIDUS (v. Müll.).

Demfai, March 17, 1899; Kunchow Creek, April 8, 1899.  
Common.

HYLIOTA FLAVIGASTRA Swains.

Nianimaru, January 27, 1899. Common.

PACHYPRORA SENEGALENSIS (L.).

Quinela, March 27, 1899; Nianimaru, May 28, 1899.  
Common.

ELMINIA LONGICAUDA (Swains.).

Koina, May 2, 1899. Rare.

TERPSIPHONE CRISTATA (Hartl.).

Nianimaru, May 30, 1899. Fairly common.

PLATYSTIRA CYANEA (P. L. S. Müll.).

♀. Nianimaru, May 21, 1899. Fairly common in the  
forest at the river-side.

\*MUSCICAPA GRISOLA L.

M'Carthy Island, February 19, 1899. Common in the  
early months of the dry season.

HIRUNDO LUCIDA Verr.

Nianimaru, February 26, 1899. Common at this time.

CYPSELUS AFFINIS (Frankl.).

M'Carthy Island, June 10, 1899. Common.

MACRODIPTERYX LONGIPENNIS Shaw.

M'Carthy Island, May 8, 1899. Common, often in small  
flocks.

SCOTORNIS CLIMACURUS (Hartl.).

Fatotenda, April 10, 1899. Solitary.

*SCOPELUS ATERRIMUS* (Steph.).

Juv. Nianimaru, January 21, 1899. Fairly common in pairs.

\**IRRISOR SENEGALENSIS* Hartl.

Nianimaru, December 26, 1898. Very common in parties of twenty to thirty.

*MELITTOPIAGUS PUSILLUS* (Sharpe).

Nianimaru, January 10, 1899. Common, especially in the mangroves.

*DICROCERCUS FURCATUS* (Stanl.).

Nianimaru, May 19, 1899. Common.

*MELITTOPIAGUS BULLOCKI* (Vicill.).

Kunchow Creek, April 8, 1899; M'Carthy Island, April 12, 1899. Fairly common.

*MEROPS NUBICUS* Gm.

M'Carthy Island, January 8, 1899. Very common.

\**HALCYON SENEGALENSIS* (L.).

M'Carthy Island, December 21, 1898. Common. The specimen obtained had a totally red beak, but otherwise answered to the description of this species.

*HALCYON CHELICUTENSIS* Finsch & Hartl.

Nianimaru, May 18, 1899. Fairly common.

\**CERYLE MAXIMA* Gray.

♀. Kunchow River, December 16, 1899. Common.

\**CERYLE RUDIS* (L.).

♀. Kunchow River, December 17, 1899. Common.

*LOPHOCEROS ERYTHORHYNCHUS* (Temm.).

Quinela, March 27, 1899. Common.

\**LOPHOCEROS NASUTUS* (L.).

M'Carthy Island. Common.

\**EURYSTOMUS AFER* (Lath.).

M'Carthy Island, May 18, 1899. Common. Frequently seen on trees at the river-side. Very noisy and quarrelsome at beginning of the breeding-season.

\*CORACIAS CYANOGASTER Sharpe.

Tabanani, December 14, 1898. Fairly common.

\*CORACIAS ABYSSINICA Gm.

M'Carthy Island, November 25, 1898. Common.

\*CORACIAS NÆVIUS Daud.

M'Carthy Island, November 23, 1898. Common.

MESOPICUS GOERTAN (P. L. S. Müll.).

Quinela, March 29, 1899. Fairly common.

CAMPOThERA PUNCTATA (Swains.).

Nianimaru, January 22, 1899. Fairly common.

BARBATULA CHRYSOCOMA (Temm.).

Quinela, March 27, 1899. Common.

MELANOBUCCO VIEILLOTI (Hartl.).

Quinela, March 29, 1899. One specimen seen.

POGONORHYNCHUS DUBIUS (Hartl.).

Nianimaru, February 25, 1899. Common.

INDICATOR SPARRMANI Steph.

Nianimaru, February 2, 1899. Common.

CHRYSOCOCCYX SMARAGDINEUS (Swains.).

M'Carthy Island, July 20, 1899. Rare; one specimen obtained.

\*CUCULUS GULARIS Steph.

M'Carthy Island, May 11, 1899. Not heard or seen on the Gambia before this date after my arrival in November.

\*COCCYSTES CAFER (Licht. sen.).

M'Carthy Island, June 14, 1899. Appeared first at this date.

\*COCCYSTES GLANDARIUS (L.).

M'Carthy Island, April 1, 1899. Not noticed before this date.

\*CENTROPUS ANSELLI Sharpe.

M'Carthy Island, December 2, 1898. Common all the year round. Though the specimen shot undoubtedly belonged to this species, *C. senegalus* was probably the most common form.



\**MUSOPHAGA VIOLACEA* Isert.

M'Carthy Island, March 10, 1899. Not very common.

\**SCHIZORHIS AFRICANA* (Lath.).

M'Carthy Island, March 5, 1899.

*PALÆORNIS DOCILIS* (Vicill.).

M'Carthy Island, March 8, 1899. Very common.

\**PŒOCEPHALUS SENEGALUS* (L.).

M'Carthy Island, December 7, 1899. Very common in flocks.

\**STRIX FLAMMEA* L.

M'Carthy Island, June 13, 1899.

\**SCOPS GIU* (Scop.).

Nianimaru, February 25, 1899. Common.

\**HALIAËTUS VOCIFER* (Daud.).

Common. Identified from a skin obtained on the south bank.

\**LOPHOAËTUS OCCIPITALIS* (Daud.).

Not common. Also identified by means of a skin from the south bank.

\**CIRCAËTUS BEAUDOUINI* J. Verr. et Des Murs.

M'Carthy Island, December 20, 1898.

\**AQUILA WAHLBERGI* (Sundev.).

Koruntaba, December 19, 1898.

\**HELOTARSUS ECAUDATUS* (Daud.).

M'Carthy Island. Common.

\**FALCO ARDESIACUS* Bonn. et Vieill.

M'Carthy Island, December 17, 1898.

\**CIRCUS MACRURUS* (Gm.).

M'Carthy Island, December 16, 1898.

\**ASTURINULA MONOGRAMMICA* (Temm.).

Nianimaru, November 25, 1898.

\**FRANCOLINUS BICALCARATUS* (Linn.).

M'Carthy Island, February 2, 1899. Very common.

\**ENA CAPENSIS* (L.).

♂. Quinela, March 28, 1899; ♀. Tabanani, December 14, 1898.

\**NUMIDA MELEAGRIS* L.

Nianimaru, February 19, 1899. Very common.

\**COLUMBA GUINEA* L.

Nianimaru, January 10, 1899. Common.

\**VINAGO WAALIA* (Gm.).

Demfai, December 13, 1898. *V. calva* was, I think, equally common.

\**CHALCOPELIA AFRA* (L.).

M'Carthy Island, November 24, 1898. Very common.

\**TURTUR SEMITORQUATUS* (Rüpp.).

M'Carthy Island, November 23, 1898. Common.

\**TURTUR VINACEUS* (Gm.).

M'Carthy Island, December 18, 1898. Common.

\**TURTUR SENEGALENSIS* (L.).

M'Carthy Island, December 18, 1898. Common.

\**BUTORIDES ATRICAPILLUS* (Afzel.).

Nianimaru, January 23, 1899. Common.

\**ARDEOLA RALLOIDES* (Scop.).

M'Carthy Island, April 1, 1899. Common.

\**GARZETTA GARZETTA* (L.).

Nianimaru, February 27, 1899. Very common.

\**ARDEA MELANOCEPHALA* Childr.

Koruntaba, December 19, 1898. Common.

\**SCOPUS UMBRETTA* Gm.

M'Carthy Island, November 22, 1898. Very common.

\**PTEROCLES QUADRICINCTUS* Temm.

♂ ♀. M'Carthy Island, December 16, 1898. Very common.

\**LIMNOCORAX NIGER* (Gm.).

Nianimaru, February 26, 1899. Fairly common.

\**EDICNEMUS SENEGALENSIS* Swains.

M'Carthy Island, February 2, 1899. Common.

\**SARCIOPHORUS TECTUS* (Bodd.).

M'Carthy Island, March 12, 1899. Very common at this season.

\**LOBIVANELLUS SENEGALUS* (L.).

M'Carthy Island, November 13, 1898. Very common at this season.

*GLAREOLA PRATICOLA* (L.).

Quinela, March 29, 1899.

\**PHALACROCORAX LUCIDUS* (Licht.).

Juv. M'Carthy Island, March 5, 1899. Very common.

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XXXVI.—*Proceedings at the Anniversary Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, 1901.*

THE Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union was held in the rooms of the Zoological Society of London, 3 Hanover Square (by permission of the Council of that Society), on Wednesday, the 15th May, at 5.30 p.m., Dr. F. DuCane Godman, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting having been read and confirmed, the Report of the Committee was read. It stated that since the last Anniversary the Union had suffered the loss, by death, of two Ordinary Members (Mr. Philip Crowley and Mr. C. W. Wyatt), of one Honorary Member (Dr. Gustav Hartlaub), and of one Foreign Member (Baron de Selys Longchamps).

The number of the Members of the Union was stated to be 370, consisting of 342 Ordinary, 2 Extraordinary, 9 Honorary, and 17 Foreign Members. There were 13 candidates for the Ordinary Membership, and one (who had been removed under the operation of Rule 6, but under circumstances which had now been satisfactorily explained) for Re-election.

The Committee was glad to report that the prosperity of the Union had continued unabated during the past year.